

**Idaho Board of Health and Welfare
Minutes
July 20 & 21, 2006**

The Board of Health and Welfare convened at:
Pete T. Cenarrusa Building
450 W. State Street, 10th Floor
Boise, Idaho

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Kenyon called the meeting to order at 9:18 am.

ROLL CALL

Dick Armstrong, Secretary, called the roll.

Board Members Present:

Quane Kenyon, Chairman
Dr. Richard Roberge
Dick Armstrong
Stephen Weeg
Dan Fuchs
Janet Penfold
Don Gross
Sara Nye
Senator Dick Compton
Representative Sharon Block

Board Members Absent:

Region 2 (Position Vacant)

Department of Health and Welfare Staff Present:

Dave Butler, Deputy Director
Dick Schultz, Deputy Director
Bill Walker, Deputy Director
Mary Hartung, Director's Office
Jeanne Goodenough, DAG
Martha Puett, Director's Office
Tom Shanahan, Public Information
Sherri Kovach, Administrative Procedures
Lauren Laskarris, Board Liaison
Leslie Clement, Medicaid
Ken Deibert, FACS
Randy May, Medicaid
Jamie Simpson, Medicaid

Others Present:

Stephanie Rockroa, NPR News 91
Kris Ellis, IDALA
Lon Perrin, AARP
Marilyn Sword, DD Council/Community Care Council
Terese Sackos, Ivy Place/Amber Lane

Rakesh Mohan, Office of Performance Evaluations
Amy Castro, Legislative Services Office

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Chairman Kenyon opened the floor for public comment for 15 minutes on any subject not specifically shown on the agenda. Since no one stepped forward to make any comments, the comment period was closed.

AGENDA ITEM #1: APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

Chairman Kenyon presented the minutes of the June 14, 2006 meeting for adoption.

Motion: Stephen Weeg moved for approval of the minutes of the June 14, 2006 Board Meeting.

Second: Don Gross

Vote: Motion carried. 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 Absent

AGENDA ITEM #2: RESIDENTIAL CARE OR ASSISTED LIVING FACILITIES IN IDAHO – DOCKET NO. 16-0322-0601

Kris Ellis, Executive Director for the Idaho Assisted Living Association, testified in support of the amendment to the temporary rules, Docket No. 16-0322-0601. Ms. Ellis stated that Association has made numerous changes over the last couple of months and are hopeful approval of this amendment will lead to a better working relationship with the Department, Legislature and now the Board. The business providers in the state of Idaho desire to work hand-in-hand with the Department to provide the best care possible to Idaho residents. Ms. Ellis stated that last year, these rules passed through the Legislature and Board with many concerns expressed by the Association. During the Legislative process, the Association continued to negotiate changes to the rules, specifically as they pertained to sprinkler system installation. The Legislature agreed to and therefore passed the rules contingent upon the agreement among the Department, Legislature and the Association. A letter of agreement between the Department, Legislature and the Association was developed and accepted; this was a good faith effort among all the parties. Ms. Ellis urged Board members to consider amending the section of the rules relating to facilities without fire-suppression sprinkler systems back to an effective date of July 1, 2010 instead of July 1, 2007.

Terese Sackos, owner of residential care homes, also testified in support of the amendment to the temporary rules, Docket 16-0322-0601. Ms. Sackos reported she is the owner of two facilities in the Boise north end and one of the facilities is grandfathered in. Ms. Sackos started trying to obtain bids as early as August of 2005, and although one of the facilities is grandfathered in, she wanted to get sprinkler systems installed in both facilities. Ms. Sackos received one bid over the phone of \$20,000 per facility and was told not to hold the contractor to that bid. She called everyone on her list and could not get anyone to talk to her; has called again and the situation has not changed. Ms. Sackos stated she had a contractor say “we are into infinity and do not know when we will be able to take any new jobs at this point in time.” There is one company that will set an appointment within the next two weeks to give her a bid; however, they won’t say how far out that work would be scheduled. Ms. Sackos noted that banks will not lend any funds unless a client has bids in hand, and has even considered doing a second mortgage on her house. Ms. Sackos stated she has worked with Medicaid staff regarding specifications from the Department so she can make sure that she isn’t getting the Cadillac system but one that is appropriate for

her assisted facility environment. The current situation places her and all other owners in a very serious position, and she wants the Board to know that she takes this very seriously. Ms. Sackos states she has been very proactive, wants residents to be secure, and does not have a problem with installing a sprinkler system. She is working hard to resolve this and knows that others are too. She is aware of two other facilities who have been working on this for a long time and those owners have been told the contractors will look at their facilities in September 2006. Ms. Sackos closed by stating she is extremely concerned that she cannot get a bid, much less a loan and will miss the 2007 deadline. She has worked hard to get systems in place and took the Department at its word with the deadline of 2010.

Discussion ensued and Board members questioned whether all owners were taking this as seriously as she was and were as proactive, or would 2010 roll around and the situation remain status quo. Ms. Sackos responded that this is definitely a concern for all owners and Association members; that members are well aware of and have agreed to have sprinkler systems in place by the 2010 date. They also know and have agreed to move non-ambulatory residents from those facilities that do not meet compliance by 2010; if those owners do nothing between now and then, it is their problem and also their responsibility to uphold their part of the agreement.

Board stated they understood the issues around the recent building boom in the economy; however, members still expressed concern regarding the 2010 date. This is still along time out, which could potentially endanger the health and safety of a compromised client.

Ms. Sackos recommended monitoring the facilities that still need to install sprinkler system with periodic status checks on bids, financing, etc. Setting bench marks or other stepping stones would be quite helpful for those folks who may feel overwhelmed with the process.

Randy May reported he could see both side of the issue, and that there is enough construction that is causing delays to those facility owners. On the other hand, he is also very committed to protecting the health and safety of individuals who are "captive" in their respective environment. Mr. May stated he is quite willing to meet with the owners of those eight (8) facilities to develop measures for tracking their progress. Given the fact that the Department is a regulatory body and is required to make some very "black and white calls" whether a facility is in compliance or not, having a date certain makes the best sense.

Motion: Senator Compton moved that the Idaho Board of Health and Welfare adopt as an amendment to the temporary Rules for Residential Care or Assisted Living Facilities in Idaho, the text as presented under Docket No. 16-0322-0601, with an effective date of the temporary rulemaking of July 20, 2006.

DISCUSSION ON THE MOTION: Idaho. Board members questioned how federal agencies such as the National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) affect assisted living facilities in the State of Idaho. Mr. May stated NFPA is not a regulatory body but an industry standardization body and their recommendation is that facilities can have non-ambulatory patients but the facility should comply with the Impractical Evacuation Capability standard which requires a sprinkler system. There are no federal guidelines regulating assisted living in the state program and no state statutes that require homes to have sprinkler systems. In terms of the liability insurance requirement, the Legislature recently removed this requirement, so this is a facility option. Ms. Sackos commented she is hopeful that by installing the sprinkler system, her liability insurance rates will be reduced.

Second: Don Gross
Roll Call: Dan Fuchs Yes
Quane Kenyon Yes
Janet Penfold Yes
Don Gross Yes
Dr. Roberge No
Stephen Weeg No
Rep. Block Yes
Sen. Compton Yes

Vote: Motion carried. 6 Ayes 2 Nays 0 Absent

AGENDA ITEM #3: NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Stephen Weeg reported he and Dan Fuchs met and do recommend Quane Kenyon as Chairman of the Board, July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007; and Dr. Roberge as Vice Chairman of the Board, July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007.

Motion: Stephen Weeg moved to elect Quane Kenyon, Chairman, from July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007.

Second: Dan Fuchs

Vote: Motion carried. 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 Absent

Motion: Dan Fuchs moved to elect Richard Roberge, Vice Chairman, from July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007.

Second: Janet Penfold

Vote: Motion carried. 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 Absent

The Board's recommended at its June 14, 2006 meeting, that Board member subcommittees be formed. Each would be assigned two to three key issues that the subcommittees could track and report back to the full Board. Director Armstrong distributed and reviewed subcommittee assignments developed by him and Chairman Kenyon.

The following assignments have been made:

- **Support Services** – Dave Butler, Deputy Director
 - Dan Fuchs
 - Janet Penfold
- **Community and Legislative Services** – Bill Walker, Deputy Director
 - Don Gross
 - Quane Kenyon
 - Sara Nye
- **FACS and Welfare Services** – Dick Armstrong (Acting)
 - Dr. Roberge
 - Senator Dick Compton
 - Dick Armstrong
- **Health Services** – Dick Schultz, Deputy Director
 - Stephen Weeg

- Representative Sharon Block
- Region II Board Member Appointee

Motion: Quane Kenyon moved to elect Janet Penfold as Chairman of the Support Services Subcommittee; Don Gross as Chairman of the Community and Legislative Services Subcommittee; Richard Roberge as Chairman of the FACS and Welfare Services Subcommittee; and Stephen Weeg as Chairman of the Health Services Subcommittee.

Second: Don Gross

Vote: Motion carried. 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 Absent

It was the consensus of Board members to begin each Board meeting with an independent subcommittee session, the Board work session, followed by the formal Board meeting at 10:00 am. Deputy Directors will communicate on a regular basis with the subcommittee chair and provide a written summary noting key issues in their respective Divisions.

AGENDA ITEM #5: DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Armstrong reported he has been on the job approximately six weeks and has been on a mission to understand the state process. He provided a brief update on activities:

- Has met with a variety of folks to gain understanding on the legislative and budgeting process and cycles (Cathy Holland Smith, Amy Castro, Don Berg, and Rakesh Mohan).
- Has toured and met with employees at Central Office and field offices; this provides an opportunity to improve on the criticism related to communication.
- Has met with the Governor to discuss the Access to Recovery Grant, and mental health and substance abuse issues.
- Has worked with executive leadership to have a clear understanding of the Behavioral Health Division.
- Continues to work with executive leadership to identify a Deputy Director for the Division of FACS and Welfare Services.

Dick Shultz distributed and reviewed the organizational chart for the Interagency Committee on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment. Mr. Schultz noted positive feedback has been received on the new structure.

Board members questioned the relationship of the new Drug Czar to this new structure. Mr. Schultz responded that as it relates to substance abuse, a matrix which cuts across all agencies will be created to ensure coordination of substance abuse activities, eliminating duplication, identifying gaps, and ensuring a seamless delivery of services.

AGENDA ITEM #5: CONFIRMATION OF DEPUTY DIRECTOR, HEALTH SERVICES

Director Armstrong reported he is very pleased to be working with Mr. Schultz and looked forward to the next six months.

Mr. Schultz stated some of his priorities included integration of public health, mental health and substance abuse, and Medicaid. With all of these programs pulling together to address some of the issue facing Idaho, the impact could be tremendous. Mr. Schultz stated he would like to lay the foundation for

that integrated approach to some of the issues as they are impacting across all of these organizations. He has as much to learn about all these areas in a very short period of time and looks forward to the challenge.

Motion: Dr. Roberge moved to confirm Dick Schultz as Deputy Director, Department of Health and Welfare.

Second: Janet Penfold

Vote: Motion carried. 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 Absent

AGENDA ITEM #6: CONFIRMATION OF DIVISION ADMINISTRATOR, MEDICAID

Mr. Schultz introduced Leslie Clement and reported Ms. Clement has had a long career working in the Division of Medicaid, Governor's Office and the Office of Performance Evaluations. Ms. Clement worked hand-in-hand with the previous Medicaid Administrator on the Medicaid Reform package, so she has a clear understanding of the agenda and Legislative directive. Ms. Clements stated that she is looking forward to working with staff, Legislature, Governor's Office and others in her new capacity.

Motion: Dan Fuchs moved to confirm Leslie Clement as Division Administrator, Medicaid, Department of Health and Welfare.

Second: Dr. Roberge

Vote: Motion carried. 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 Absent

AGENDA ITEM #7: CONFIRMATION OF DIVISION ADMINISTRATOR, BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Mr. Schultz introduced Kathleen Allyn and reported a strong manager was needed in the creation of this new division. Ms. Allyn has a background both in the reimbursement aspect of mental health and substance abuse issues as well as the field delivery of services. Ms. Allyn was most recently Regional Director at Region 4 and Region 5, and prior to that worked in the Division of Medicaid.

Ms. Allyn reported she was quite enthusiastic to lead this new Division and noted that staff has recently settled into their new space.

Motion: Senator Compton moved to confirm Kathleen Allyn as Division Administrator, Behavioral Health, Department of Health and Welfare.

Second: Stephen Weeg

Vote: Motion carried. 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 Absent

AGENDA ITEM #8: UPDATES ON OPE AUDITS

Child Welfare Caseload Management

Ken Deibert, Administrator, Family and Community Services, reported the original study was conducted two years ago, and today's presentation is only a status report, which was filed with the Office of Performance Evaluations (OPE) at the end of April. Mr. Deibert distributed and gave a brief overview of

the status report and noted that this reflects the Department's response to implementing the seven recommendations.

Board members questioned why was OPE looking at caseload management, which brought about their review and recommendations. Director Mohan responded that Legislature was concerned about the Department's request for an increase in positions, and Legislature wanted to find out why those positions were needed, and whether the Department's request was justified.

Board members also posed the following questions: In terms of Any Door, is there a discernable positive difference utilizing this model vs. the previous model of service delivery, and is the Department tracking outcome measure related to the initiative. Mr. Deibert responded the Department is tracking outcome measures for the service integration strategy. Recently, the Department was selected in service integration activities by the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education as an emerging best practice. A team of folks is working with Central Office and field staff to develop specific measures to track the performance of the initiative. That data will be available to others who want to look at this initiative to determine its overall effectiveness, and whether or not WICHE wants to move from an emerging best practice, to defining it as a national best practice for rural service delivery.

Board members commented that OPE is spending a lot of money conducting studies on whether or not the Department is taking care of its clients; OPE using those funds to conduct studies could be money used to help folks and members inquired about the cost of this study.

Rakesh Mohan, Director, Office of Performance Evaluations, responded that with respect to the Department's recent management study, there were no special funds appropriated to Legislative Services to conduct this study. OPE has been created statutorily and its job is to provide legislative oversight to the executive branch agencies. He noted that when the state is spending a couple of billion dollars a year to run state operations, a \$600,000 OPE budget is a wise investment on the part of Legislature to ensure agencies have some type of oversight. The Joint Legislative Oversight Committee approves and directs OPE on which priorities and studies to conduct. The Department's management study was one of the least expensive surveys conducted as WEB-based technology was utilized to survey all staff thus eliminating data entry. Software cost was \$6,000, and less than \$20,000 total was spent to find out what staff thinks about a \$1.6 billion dollar agency.

Representative Block stated that Legislators are truly looking for efficiencies and have a desire to improve delivery of services to the citizens of Idaho, thus they make requests for review of agencies.

Management in the Department of Health and Welfare

Director Armstrong reported that 88% of employees responded to the OPE survey, with 90% of middle management responding to this survey. This is quite significant and indicates employees want to have their voice heard. The Director's Office has been meeting with Human Resources staff to orchestrate and develop a response back to the employees from executive leadership. Director Armstrong plans to engage management throughout the Department around the specific findings of the survey and develop action plans to address those issues. Those action plans will be shared with employees, driven at the manager and supervisor level.

Director Armstrong reported that communication is also a major part of employee dissatisfaction and he is working with the Deputy Directors to develop a matrix that will be deployed to ensure employees are receiving messages timely and consistently. An individual who is accountable for getting consistent information to the employees will be identified at each office location. This program will be deployed in the very near future.

Director Armstrong reported that of the seven findings identified in the 2002 OPE report, one finding has remained unaddressed and will be addressed this year. The Department has been using the 1998 federal poverty guidelines as the baseline, and OPE recommended that the Department use the current poverty level. The reason this was not changed was that by moving to a current poverty level, the threshold is raised to a higher level, thus costing more money as more folks qualify for benefits. In the past, the Department felt it could not do this and remain revenue neutral; however, the Department is promulgating rules that will allow it to move to 150% of the 2005 poverty guidelines.

State Substance Abuse Treatment Efforts

Kathleen Allyn distributed and reviewed the Executive Summary from the State Substance Abuse Treatment Efforts report and the Department's response to the recommendations. The study was requested by JLOC in March of 2005 and the evaluation report issued in December of 2005.

The report cited four areas that were of concern to OPE: 1) The fact that there are multiple agencies that are involved that fund substance abuse prevention or treatment activities, and that these activities are not coordinated. The recommendation was that there should be a central independent commission. 2) The management of the contractor and its services generally needed to be improved. The Department implemented a number of the recommendations that were made by OPE in that regard, including implementing formal review of the current management services contractor as well as independent audits. Since the time the report was issued, a new substance abuse manager has been appointed within the Department, as well as a new Access to Recovery Grant manager. 3) That the data is generally not reliable – there is a need to get original data such as provider information more timely. The Department is getting better training for staff related to fiscal activities and in obtaining better census management information from the contractor. Also, there are specific suggestions to amend contract language shortening the length of time providers have to submit billing information. 4) There needed to be better quality controls on treatment. The Department has strengthened its credentialing process and continues to review those providers. Best practice has been implemented and staff is in the process of building infrastructure as well initiating quality controls.

Ms. Allyn closed by stating the report raised a number of issues related to the program and most, if not all, have been addressed; staff will continue to address remaining issues.

AGENDA ITEM #9: REVIEW OF PRELIMINARY FY '08 BUDGET

Dave Butler reported the Department just closed fiscal year 2006, and that on a projected budget of \$1,586,000,000, the Department spent a total of \$1,573,000,000, a difference of \$13 million. The majority of the \$13 million that was not spent resided in trustee and benefits in Medicaid. Currently, the Department is running under projection in the first two weeks of the fiscal year. If this trend continues, the Department will once again be under the projected budget, partially due to Medicaid Reform and Medicare Part D. Mr. Butler noted that with an improved economy, more people are employed thus decreasing the need for assistance. With regards to the FY '08 budget, the Department is reviewing the major programs that impact the budget, such as Medicaid utilization, cost of service, and inflation. Executive leadership is reviewing and evaluating how this impacted the Department last year and what impacts it will have on the FY'08 budget. Staff is in the process of assembling the FY '08 budget, and is working with the Division of Financial Management, Governor's Office and Legislative Services; trends, legislative impacts and the economy all have to be evaluated in the development of any budget.

Mr. Butler referred to the FY '08 Preliminary/Draft Budget Considerations and noted there are 16 budget items or considerations. These still need to be reviewed and discussed with the Division of Financial Management, Governor's Office and Legislative Services to determine which will actually be submitted in the Department's budget request. Mr. Butler also reported that as of last year, carry-over authority for the Department was removed, except for three areas: Medicaid carry-over will be placed into Medicaid trustee and benefits, Welfare carry-over must be put towards the EPICS replacement, and carry-over from the Developmental Disabilities program must be spent on the Infant Toddler program.

Mr. Butler reported that due to the Deficit Reduction Act passed by Congress, certain programs covered by TANF federal funds are being impacted and not covered, thus if the Department wishes to continue the programs, it must request general funds. Mr. Butler also noted that federal funding of the Access to Recovery program will be discontinued after this year. The Governor and Legislature will need to determine whether to provide state funding for this program and at what level, such as treatment or recovery, or both.

The Millennium Fund, which provides funding for anti-tobacco advertising and cessation classes, is granted to a number of entities, including Health and Welfare. The Department requested funding in FY '06, however, funds were not appropriated; the Department is once again requesting funding in its FY '08 budget.

Mr. Butler requested Board members provide input on the information presented as the budget must be submitted by September 1, 2006.

AGENDA ITEM #10: ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Kenyon moved to adjourn the Board meeting at 3:55 pm. The Board will reconvene on Friday, July 21, 2006 at 8:00 am.

**Board of Health and Welfare
Friday, July 21, 2006:**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Kenyon called the meeting to order at 8:05 am.

ROLL CALL

Dick Armstrong, Secretary, called the roll.

AGENDA ITEM #11: HOUSE BILL 833

Kathleen Allyn, Division Administrator, Behavioral Health, distributed and briefly reviewed a summary of House Bill 833. This bill creates an Interagency Committee on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment, and retains the regional committees formerly referred to as the Regional Substance Abuse Authorities. Those committees are now being called the Regional Advisory Committees. The purpose of the Interagency Committee is to focus statewide efforts to address substance abuse by assessing statewide needs; developing a statewide plan; coordinating efforts of all state entities that use public funds for efforts to address substance abuse; and advising these agencies on needs and strategies pertaining to services provided to address substance abuse.

Ms. Allyn reported the Committee is directed to have a meeting in August and thereafter once each calendar quarter; the August meeting is tentatively scheduled for August 30, 2006. There are semi-annual reporting requirements by the state agencies that expend public funds to provide services to address substance abuse. The report shall include the amount of money expended, the number of individuals served or extent of service and type of service, individuals not served or placed on waiting lists, the agencies' capacities to provide specific types of services, and the completion, dropout and relapse rates for treatment programs.

Board members questioned staffing needs and if any funds or resources had been allocated specifically to support the Committee. Ms. Allyn stated that no funds have been allocated and specific provisions in the legislation directs each agency to contribute to the administrative cost.

Rep Block commented she has been contacted by the local substance abuse authority group who is quite concerned that their role might be changed in some way, and questioned if the Department had a plan to inform the group what their role is. Also, the group is concerned about having one representative as there are different needs statewide. Ms. Allyn responded that the roles of the local committees are set by statute and their respective roles are to be discussed at the meeting of the chairs. Membership has been clearly indicated by the legislation that was passed.

Mr. Schultz stated that the Department is one of a large group of state agencies involved in this effort, and that certainly, it would work hard to present ideas in a concise manner. Also, it is important to engage and involve the Health Districts in the referral and management of treatment of mental health and substance abuse.

**AGENDA ITEM #12: HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 63
MENTAL HEALTH / SUBSTANCE ABUSE STUDY**

Kathleen Allyn reported this Resolution appoints a committee to undertake and complete a study of the current mental health and substance abuse treatment delivery systems in Idaho, and to review alternative ways to provide these services and make recommendations for any changes the committee would see as appropriate, with specific attention paid to a system that meets the needs of and provides accountability to Idahoans. The Committee includes Sen. Stegner, Rep. Skippen, Sen. Compton, Rep. Block, Sen. Coiner, Sen. Broadsword, Sen. Werk, Rep. Wood, Rep. Garrett, and Rep. Henbest. The Committee met on June 27 at the Idaho State School and Hospital, touring the facility and taking testimony from a large number of groups including the Department, Department of Corrections, Department of Juvenile Corrections, county service, judges, and the Idaho Association of Counties. The next meetings are scheduled at State Hospital South in Blackfoot on August 14, and State Hospital North in Orofino on September 19. Board members are invited to attend both presentations.

Amy Castro, Legislative Services, reported the first meeting was basically to allow state agencies to discuss how they access the mental health and substance abuse systems; what are the areas of concern; roadblocks to access in obtaining services that are needed; and future needs. At the next meeting, agencies that did not have an opportunity to present will do so, and presentations by the Transformation Work Group and NAMI will be provided on how they expect the system to work. Some of the issues identified included transitional housing, a secure treatment facility, how patient access services, and what are the gaps.

Discussion ensued with the Board voicing concerns regarding moving mental health and substance abuse services out of Health and Welfare and potentially creating another agency. It would just move concerns

and issues from one agency to another; it does not resolve the root cause(s). Board members debated the pros and cons of developing a statement which indicates their lack of support for moving these services out of the Department.

Mr. Schultz reported that at the meeting in September at State Hospital North, the Department will present its view on where the system ought to go. In that presentation Committee members will have the opportunity to review where DHW is headed and make a judgment on the value the Department brings to managing these services.

AGENDA ITEM #13: STRATEGIC PLAN REVIEW

Director Armstrong gave a brief overview and reported that House Bill 300 passed in 2005 and established a process by which agencies would provide a strategic plan in a phased-in process. The first year the strategic plan is produced, and in subsequent years, agencies start adding measures and will be held accountable to those measures. The Department has done a good job of creating the plan and has encouraged staff to continue using the same base document with the idea that this is an evolutionary process. This year, the Department has added meaningful measures by which to monitor success. There are some very aggressive targets as part of the charge is to improve the overall health of the citizens of Idaho.

Mr. Butler reported that on June 1, 2006, the Department submitted its Strategic Plan to the Division of Financial Management. With the new roles and responsibilities, the Board will be requested to provide input with any updates from this point forward. The vision, mission and values for the Department were revamped, and the agency moved from five goals to three goals. Those goals are to: 1) improve the health status of Idahoans; 2) increase the safety and self-sufficiency of individuals and families; and 3) enhance the delivery of health and human services. The goals and objectives, performance measures, and rationale for the objectives were briefly reviewed by the Deputy Directors.

After brief discussion, Board members recommended that clear and concise communications be presented to staff in the Regional Offices so they too can understand and articulate how Department is working to affect and change behaviors of Idaho citizens for a healthier lifestyle. Board members also recommended talking points be developed and distributed to Legislature so could assist in helping folks improve behaviors.

AGENDA ITEM #14: RULES REVIEW

Bill Walker, Deputy Director, reported that when the Legislature expanded the roles and responsibilities of the Board, it did not change the rules authority of the Board. However, the Legislature did give advisory responsibility on administrative matters, such as Director's rules. As of July 2006, there are 32 rules with eight (8) Board rules and three (3) fee rules to present to the Legislature in 2007.

Mr. Walker gave a brief overview of Board authority rules as outlined, and stated that fee rules require concurrence by both Germane Committees. It is anticipated that there will be significant public comment to the Medicaid Reform rules and those public sessions are scheduled in Idaho Falls, Coeur d'Alene and Boise. Mr. Walker also noted that the Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) impacts many of the Department's rules and that the DRA will be a hot topic at the upcoming Legislative session.

Mr. Walker stated that if the Board required additional information on any rule presented, to please contact him.

AGENDA ITEM #15: PHYSICIANS/MEDICAL GROUPS AND MEDICAID PATIENTS

Dr. Roberge reported that one of the difficulties he found when working in his practice, was to obtain physician referral for Medicaid patients. Dr. Roberge noted there were two areas to address: 1) What is the real situation around the state and can the Department evaluate whether or not Medicaid patients experience roadblocks in accessing care. 2) If there is a deficiency of care to Medicaid patients, consider proposing a tax advantage or tax credit. This should apply to physicians and dentist as dental care is just as important, especially for pregnant women.

Dr. Roberge reported he has spoken with the Executive Director of the Idaho Medical Association (IMA), and the Director is not totally behind this as there has been no raise in Medicaid fees for a number of years. Recently, legislation was passed which attached the increase in Medicaid fees to the consumer price index. Each year as the consumer price index rises, so do the Medicaid fees. The IMA expressed concerns that if something in the form of a tax advantage is put in place, physicians would lose the consumer price index increase. Dr. Roberge also noted that the Legislature may not want to consider and approve any type of action.

Bottom line, find out who is getting Medicaid care from physicians, who is not, and is it possible to consider some benefit to physicians who provide care. It was noted that recently, there has been a huge push to enroll Medicaid folks through the Healthy Connections program. Thus these folks are receiving primary care, but it would be interesting to note how they fare with regards to specialty care.

Mr. Schultz stated that data from the behavioral risk factor surveillance survey will be reviewed and will compare patient perception of access to care between the general population and the Medicaid population. Leslie Clement, Administrator for Medicaid, will undertake a geographic evaluation of where physicians take Medicaid patients and identify gaps. This information will be provided at the September meeting.

AGENDA ITEM #16: REMAINDER OF BOARD MEETINGS FOR 2006

It was the consensus of the Board to hold the September 21 & 22, 2006, meeting in Coeur d' Alene in conjunction with the Employee Recognition events in Region 1.

The November 16 & 17, 2006, meeting will be held in Boise.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

Dave Butler reported the Governor's Office is working to fill the Region 2 Board member vacancy.

Senator Compton urged Board members to attend the Department's budget presentations to the Joint Finance Appropriations Committee (JFAC), and also the Germane Committee reports to JFAC at the upcoming session. Mr. Butler will keep Board members apprised of these presentations.

AGENDA ITEM #17: ADJOURNMENT:

Motion: Chairman Kenyon moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:00 pm .

Vote: Motion carried. 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 Absent

Respectfully signed and submitted by:

Quane Kenyon, Chairman, Health and Welfare Board

Dick Armstrong, Secretary, Health and Welfare Board

Martha Puett, Executive Assistant and Recorder